

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

24 MAY 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Department of State Research
Council

THROUGH : Director, Office of External Research/INR

FROM : Acting Coordinator for Academic Relations
and External Analytical Support, National
Foreign Assessment Center, CIA

SUBJECT : Foreign Affairs External Research Proposal

1. This is to inform you of an external research project requiring contacts with foreign nationals that the National Foreign Assessment Center is now considering. Your review and clearance of this project is requested.

2. The project -- tentatively entitled Soviet Absorption of Japanese Technology -- will analyze the effectiveness of Soviet industry to assimilate, diffuse, and enhance foreign technology. The degree to which imported technology contributes to Soviet economic growth, factor productivity, and military capabilities is a question of great interest to US policymakers. Specifically, a better understanding is desired of how quickly and effectively Soviet industry puts imported technology into operation in production plants, whether and how well the technology is then spread from plant to plant within an industry, and from one industry to another; and whether and to what extent it is subsequently improved.

3. The experience of US industry in selling technology to the USSR is being collected and analyzed by scholars within and outside the US government. The Department of State has contracted with private scholars to collect and analyze data from British and West German businesses that have sold technology to the USSR. Japanese firms also have a long history of industrial plant sales to the Soviets.

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Approved For Release 2005/07/14 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000100180003-0

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Approved For Release 2005/07/14 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000100180003-0